

JEREMIAH BUCKLEY'S HEIRS.

DECEMBER 27, 1831.

MR. MARDIS, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs of Jeremiah Buckley, report:*

That the subject now under consideration, was before this committee at the last session of Congress, and favorably reported on; which report has been examined, and compared with the facts established by the testimony in the case. The committee find the facts correctly embodied in the report alluded to. They therefore adopt the report made upon this claim at the last session of Congress; and report a bill, which is herewith submitted,

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom were referred the petition and documents of the heirs of Jeremiah Buckley, deceased, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

That George Musser, Sarah Musser, John Smith, and Margaret Smith, James G. Ennis, and Catharine Ennis, the petitioners, represent, that, about the 11th June, 1796, Jeremiah Buckley, of the State of Pennsylvania, purchased of one T. Dubois, then of the Territory Northwest of the river Ohio, a tract of land containing one hundred acres, situate on the Wabash river, about three miles above the town of Vincennes, for the consideration of one hundred and forty dollars, which sum appears to have been paid, from a receipt filed among the papers; and shortly thereafter, returned to Pennsylvania, and deceased, leaving the said Sarah, Margaret, Catharine, and one son, namely: Thomas Buckley, his infant heirs, of tender years; that afterwards, the said Sarah intermarried with George Musser, Margaret with John Smith, and Catharine with James G. Ennis, all living now, and citizens of Warren county, State of Kentucky; that the said Thomas Buckley has sold and transferred his interest in the same to the said John Smith; that the said Dubois, subsequently to the sale and contract as above stated, to the said Buckley, viz: about the 11th June, 1803, conveyed one hundred arpens of the said land, equal to eighty-five acres, to the United States, for the purpose of erecting a garrison, &c. and made a deed of conveyance accordingly; from which it appears that the said Dubois recognised the conveyance pre-

viously made to the said Buckley, and provided therein for indemnity from the United States, in case the heirs of the said Buckley should ever call on him or his heirs for the land. The petitioners affirm that Dubois sold to the said Buckley one hundred acres, and not one hundred arpens, as represented by the deed to the United States. They now ask a retrocession of the land, and compensation for the destruction of timber, &c. during the time it was occupied by the troops of the United States. The material facts, as set forth relative to the contract by Dubois to Buckley; and the deed subsequently made by Dubois to the United States, are satisfactorily proven by documentary evidence. It is also proven, by the affidavit of three persons, certified by a magistrate to be respectable citizens of Knox county, Indiana, that the United States kept possession of the said land from 1803, to about 1813; that, during this time, the timber was destroyed, or made use of for building the garrison, &c. and that its value might be estimated at something like four hundred dollars. The committee are of opinion, that the prayer of the petitioners, as relates to the retrocession of the land, is reasonable and just, and report the bill heretofore reported by this committee at a former session of Congress, for that purpose; but, as respects the amount demanded for the timber, and the use of the land, they propose to give a reasonable compensation, which is also provided for in the bill herewith reported.